

# Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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# HOODED WARBLER

(*Wilsonia citrina*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened

## Description:

The hooded warbler, about 5 1/2 inches long at maturity, has a black hood surrounding a bright yellow face, and a tail with large white spots.

Female and

young are similar in appearance to the male, but are duller in color and have no black hood.

Their nests are usually made of leaves, bark strips, and spider webs, placed between 1 and 5 feet above the ground.



**Habitat:** The hooded warbler inhabits shrubby openings (1/4 to 2 1/2 acres in size) in moist to wet deciduous woods in large tracts (>200 acres) of mature (>50 years old) forest in southern Wisconsin. Nesting occurs during mid-May to mid-July, with nests in hardwood



saplings (like sugar maple) 1 to 6 feet in height. The nest is made of grape vine, tree bark, leaves and grass, all interwoven with spiderwebs. This warbler is an “area sensitive” species that is likely to experience poor nesting success—and hence declining populations—in smaller or fragmented forests. A mature forest of 240 acres is believed to have at least a 50% chance of supporting a breeding population.

**Forestry Considerations:** Utilize single-tree selection or small group-selection silviculture since it mimics natural windthrow, maintaining the small canopy gaps that benefit this species. These openings within a mature forest will provide interior edge conditions for foraging and nesting. Minimize disturbance (including tree harvest) during the nesting season where this species is known to occur.

